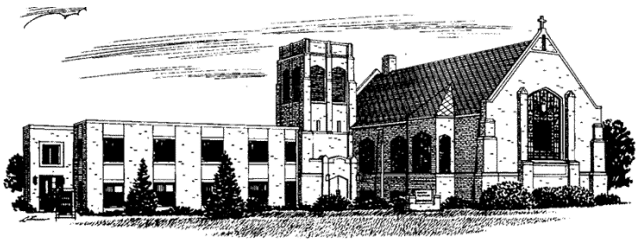

SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Nanci Fenrick, Financial Secretary
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

November 2018

Oh, sing to God above a hymn of joyful greeting,
A song of grateful love in the new day's light repeating-

Those are the words of our offering song these past weeks. It makes me ponder – for what are we grateful? For whom do we give thanks to God?

The answers could be as varied as these – a spouse or partner, a friend; food on our table, and shelter; the gift of laughter and yes, the gift of tears; the ability to travel – for work or pleasure; health care and a community of support. And I am mindful that not everyone has the same list. For some, the things that we often take for granted are missing. And sometimes, the community of faith helps to carry another's burdens or respond to a person's needs. When I think of Saron, I am grateful for our desire to share God's love with one another and with others. We don't do it perfectly but it is part of who we are. As we move into the future and live into God's vision for us, God's love for God's people and the sharing of that love is at its core. *Oh, sing to God above: Alleluia!*

Pastor Joan

ADULT INQUIRER'S (New Member) CLASS
A gathering for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith from the Lutheran perspective or joining Saron is being planned for November 18 after 2nd service. If you are interested, please let Pastor know.

USHER AND LECTOR TRAINING
Are you interested in reading at church or being an usher? A brief training will be held on Sunday, November 11 following 2nd service. This is also a good review for those who are already serving in this capacity.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville; and **Jean Pearson** is at Caretel, St. Joseph, MI

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Nanci (financial secretary): Weds afternoon
Call for other times/changes
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in November 2018.

Nov. 4 - Laurel Gacek
7 - Meredith Gacek
8 - Andrew Marquardt
13 - Carter Hohman
15 - Coanne Hohman
19 - Brent Dipert
20 - Christopher Gilmore Gaspari
22 – Laraine Taylor
23 - Jean Pearson
Ruth Ball
25 - David Lundgren
27 - Gene Embree
28 - Melanie McCammon
30 - Denise Cook

November Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members in November 2018.

Nov. 1 - Ryan and Kelli Christman
7 - Michael and Laura Chaddock
21 - Mark and Deborah Vollmer
22 - Walter and Sally Schmuhl
John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

God's Blessings

Best wishes and God's blessings to Brad Gorman and Trevor Hoppe upon their wedding on September 29.

With Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Tina Goodhart-Lockwitz. We remember her husband, Todd, in our prayers. Tina was a former member of Saron. Her funeral was on October 13 at Starks. *God is our refuge and strength*. Psalm 46:1a

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday Nov. 4
All Saints Sunday
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

Sunday Nov. 11
Twenty- fifth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Sunday Nov. 18
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-25
Mark 13:1-8

Sunday Nov. 25
Christ the King Sunday
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

Nursery News
We are blessed to have this service available for families with young children and we are so thankful for all our volunteers and our childcare worker Emily. We work around a variety of schedules so if you are interested, don't let limited time stop you from signing up. There is a sheet on the kiosk or let Marilyn Lucy know of your willingness.

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE
On All Saints Sunday, November 4, 2018, we will remember at worship those who have gone before us and have joined the church triumphant. If you would like someone to be remembered, please fill out the information form at church or contact the church office by noon on October 29. This includes the persons to be remembered and their relationship to you, such as friend, parent. *Please note that we begin the list of those remembered new each year and do not carry forward names, unless asked to do so.*

POINSETTIA PLANTS
You are invited to purchase a poinsettia that will help beautify Saron's chancel at Christmas. You may pick up your plant(s) after the Christmas Eve service December 24th. **ORDER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12th.** Call the church office for more details or pick up an order form in the Sunday bulletin.

FORTIFY & fly

Project Fortify & Fly kept us busy last month with many special Bible study opportunities including the All-Church Bible Study led by our consultant, Reverend Luke Bouman on October 14th.

The theme of Project Fortify & Fly thus far has been that before we can look outward to the specifics of what the Church needs and how much it will cost, we have to look inward at our faith and our connection to the church and each other. Thank you for being patient and following the journey as it is meant to unfold. It is natural to have questions and November will be a time for answers.

The 24-hour prayer vigil is coming up quick on November 2nd at 9:00 a.m. to November 3rd at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome even if you didn't sign up for a slot. The prayers will be done from home from midnight to 6:00 a.m. but otherwise, the church will be open for you.

Enrichment Gatherings will also take place in November with many date and time options to fit in your schedule. These are small group, informal gatherings that will provide a forum for a member of the Leadership Team or Church Council to give you all the facts and answer all those burning questions. Sign up and be heard!

Lastly, invitations will go out soon but please save the date for our All-Church Banquet and Kid's Party on December 14th at 6:30 p.m. If you aren't receiving our special Fortify & Fly newsletters and other mailings and want to be included, let us know. Fortify & Fly everyone!

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

The Saron Church Women Annual Meeting will meet on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the church lounge. All women of Saron are welcome to attend. Business matters will be discussed and voted upon. Thankoffering will be collected. Kathy Cowall and Darlene Kiessel will be the hostesses.

Saron Church Women

Saron Church Women thanks everyone who contributed items for Lutheran World Relief. The total was 54 personal care kits, 8 fabric kits, and 34 bars of extra soap. The amount donated for postage/shipping/toothpaste was $218.00. Thanks to Colleen Lundgren, Linda Pater, Frieda Williams, Marilyn Lucy, and Melanie McCammon for boxing up the kits. Thanks, also, to Darlene Kiessel and Janet Larson for transporting everything to the collection site in Portage. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be used by many people in need. Thanks, again.

Learning

book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Ephesus group is studying Short Stories by Jesus: the enigmatic parables of a controversial rabbi, written by Amy-Jill Levine. We begin with our study hour and then share a simple meal. Anyone interested is welcome to join the discussions at any time. Call Bob (269-921-2786) or Mary (269-921-3816) if you'd like to come and try out the group.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron's Men's Bible study meets every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at the church then at 7:00pm we adjourn and all are invited to join in for something to eat and drink at Azul Tequila.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Sid at 312-209-1301 or sidmohn@gmail.com. or Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com .

"Iron Sharpens Iron and One Person Sharpens the Wits of Another."

Thursday Morning Bible Study

"God's Extraordinary Church: Studies in Ephesians" will begin on November 1. This six-week study meets on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00. There will be no class on Thanksgiving Day. Cost of the learner guide is $8.00. We are always welcoming newcomers. Please join us!

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Monthly Devotion resumes Saturday, November 3rd, at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway. All Saron men are invited and guests are welcome!

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We'll be ready to go again on November 4th, 6:30, in the upstairs lounge. "Magpie Murders," by Anthony Horowitz is a real life mystery/thriller hidden within a fictional story that is also a mystery/thriller. Get it? Hope so because as the reader, you become the detective working on the case. Potentially a fun challenge for us all.

On December 2nd we are turning back the years to a classic novel by Theodore Dreiser, "Sister Carrie." This story chronicles a young country girl's move to the city to realize the American Dream. The year is 1900 and Dreiser, with this book, helped change the direction of American Literature. Come find out how and why.

Please join us. All are welcome at any of our discussions. We have a good time. Questions? Contact Kathy Cowall (269) 428-0354 or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but how many can get through to you" (Mortimer J. Adler)

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley and Nanci Fenrick to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley and Nanci Fenrick the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement.
Thanks! Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?

If so, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. Portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

On September 27 Saron prepared & served 152 people a ham dinner at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. The Soup Kitchen is open 365 days a year serving anyone in need of a meal & fellowship. Thanks to Judi Huff, Marilyn Lucy, Pam Olson, Marilyn Frey, Amanda Bradley, & Frieda Williams for baking cookies & to Coanne Hohman, Darlene Kiessel, Ruth Ball, Dave & Kathie Bradley, Bob Kynast, & Colleen Lundgren for helping to prepare & serve dinner.

Large cans of fruit are always needed at the Soup Kitchen & can be dropped off anytime at the church. Any questions or to volunteer or provide cookies please contact Kathie Bradley at 269-427-7083.

MEET ME AT THE FREEZER

We will need a volunteer to be in charge of organizing "Meet Me at the Freezer" project. If you have interest, contact Pastor. Thank you! The freezer meals are available down in the dining room in the LARGE freezer. If you know of someone who could use a meal, for any reason, please take it to them or invite them to take one after worship. No questions asked. Enjoy!

MICHIGAN BLOOD DRIVE

Our blood drive that was scheduled for October 29th was cancelled. There were too many drives for the staff available from Michigan Blood Services. We have a new recruiter who will secure dates for blood drives in 2019. Our next drive will not be before March so feel free to participate in other blood drives through the end of the year. If you have any questions regarding the blood drive, contact Marilyn Lucy or check out MIBLOOD.ORG.

INTERFAITH ACTION

Interfaith Action (SW Michigan's Interfaith Peace & Justice Collaborative) Announces Working Groups:

At its September meeting, Interfaith Action organized the following Working Groups to develop plans for the coming year. Persons interested in joining a working group should contact the Coordinator or Sid Mohn (sidmohn@gmail.com).

1. Great Waters Initiative: advancing safe drinking water for Michigan, preserving the resources of the Great Lakes, and advocating access to water as threatened by climate change. Coordinator: Karla Donnell Bragg. Karladb@comcast.net Next Meeting: to be determined.

2. Green Faith: greening our communities of faith through environmental stewardship. Coordinator: Sue Greenwood. Tawnyginger@gmail.com. Next Meeting: 2670 Woodgate Dr, Apt #241, St Joseph, MI.

3. Dignity of All: promoting inclusion and justice to counter discrimination based on race, gender, faith, sexual orientation/gender identity; ensuring protections and opportunities for the poor. Coordinator: Laura Hicks. Lhicks42@gmail.com. Next Meeting: to be determined.

4. No Longer a Stranger: welcoming the stranger as neighbor through generous refugee policy and practice and fair and just immigration policy and practice. Coordinator: Robert Burgess. Roblloydburgess@gmail.com. Next Meeting: To be determined.

5. Keep the Peace: advocating for peace in global conflicts; addressing gun violence in the US: Coordinator: Glyn Durston. Miglynd@comcast.net. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 18th - 6:30 p.m., 2060 Juniper Dr., Stevensville, MI

Facilities

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as we receive rebates to be used on office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Thank you.

LOOKING AHEAD to ADVENT

Mid-Week Wednesdays
December 5, 12 & 19

6:00 Soup Supper
7:00 Worship

Council News

Saron's Council Members – 2018

Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – President
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Tyler Cook (429-5550) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Judy Huff (473-5075) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home)– Pastor

Attendance Record	
09/30/2018	*72*
10/07/2018	*80*
10/14/2018	*95*
10/21/2018	*73*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

November 2018

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Saron
November Volunteer Schedule

	November 4 ***All Saints Day***		***November 11*** **Twenty- fifth Sunday after Pentecost**		***November 18*** ***Twenty- sixth Sunday after*** **Pentecost**		**November 25** **Christ the King Sunday**	
	8:30	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	*8:30*	*11:00*
Assisting minister	Marilyn Frey	Connie Slater	Pauline Ngonyani	Bill Oleson	Eric Standen	Bob Kynast	Wendy King	Dennis Lundgren
Reader/ Comm. Asst.	Jim Manore	Bob Deaton	Sally Schmuhl	Dan Fortenbacher	Karen Hinckley	Mary Kynast	Susan Harris	Karen Johnson
Ushers	Steve Bell and Brad Frey	Dave and Kathie Bradley	Fran Richards and Elizabeth Kunkel	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	Dave and Sue Bailey	Jerry and Ruth Stelling	Walt and Sally Schmuhl	John Olson and Krin Jurgensen
Acolyte	Brandon Burrow & Eric Burrow	Grant Gacek	Troy Burrow & Eric Burrow	Molly Becker	tbd	Meredith Gacek	Brooke Henderson	Mia Bradley
Nursery 1st	Jenna Henderson	Frieda Williams	Marilyn Frey	Judi Huff	Deb Standen	Lindsay Gaspari	Janet Larson	Darlene Kiessel
Nursery 2nd	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul
Bldg. close		Jerry and Ruth Stelling		Bob and Mary Kynast		Dave and Kathie Bradley		Bob Hopkins
Snacks	Irma Gorman							
Flowers	Gacek Family		OPEN		Christopher Gaspari B'd		Dennis and Colleen Lundgren	

November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes				**1** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**2** CWU World Community Day 11am	3 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast at the Galley Grill in Stevensville
4 Worship & Learning (see above) 6:30 p.m. 1ST Sunday Book Discussion Group	**5** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**6** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**7** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. SCW Annual Meeting	**8** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**9**	10
11 Worship & Learning (see above) 12:00 Youth Group 12:15 Usher/Reader Training	**12** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Campaign Team Mtg Newsletter Articles due	**13** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Support Committee	**14** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**15** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**16**	17
18 Worship & Learning (see above) 12:15 New Member Class	**19** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**20** 4:00 p.m. Vasa 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship	**21** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**22** Thanksgiving Day	**23**	24
25 Worship & Learning (see above) Baptism – Charlie Kohs	**26** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**27** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**28** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**29** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**30**	